

Bushel Basket or Shining Light?

A Meal Ritual

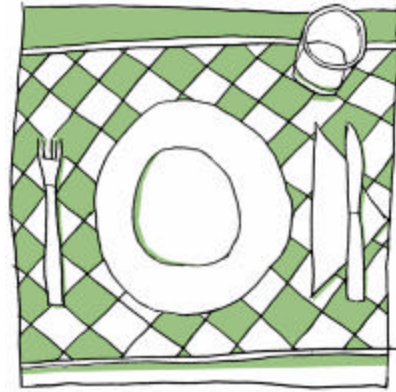


Table Center

A large candle in the center, potentially decorated with a cross to represent the Christ (Easter) candle, a small vigil light for each table guest.

Preparation

Recruit readers for the various parts below, as desired. Prepare the candles and light them before you begin.

✚ We Gather...

Begin by saying...

We gather at this table to reflect on our call and invitation by Christ to be the light of the world. We begin with reflecting on how we have failed to be that light. As we ponder the burning flames of the candles and the Christ candle on the table before us, we are invited to consider the times we are not faithful bearers of the light or how our lights are sometimes dimmed by the negative choices we make in our lives.

As we pray together this litany, I invite you to blow out a candle—one per person—when a “bushel basket” of sin that hides your light is mentioned.

“Jesus, you challenge us to be the light of the world, not to put our lights under bushel baskets but to share our lights brightly with the world, so we pray to seek forgiveness and reconciliation for the times we have failed to light our world. Our response is, Jesus be our light.

- ✚ When we hide our light under the bushel basket of selfishness and indifference to the needs of others. Jesus, be our light...
- ✚ When we hide our light under the bushel basket of anger and impatience. Jesus, be our light...
- ✚ When we hide our light under the bushel basket of arrogance and self-centeredness. Jesus be our light...
- ✚ When we hide our light under the bushel basket of violence and the abuse of others dignity. Jesus be our light...
- ✚ When we hide our light under the bushel basket of fear. Jesus be our light ...

Please feel free to add your own “bushel baskets”...

“When we hide our light under the bushel basket of _____, Jesus be our light...

✚ We Tell the Story...

Let us now listen to the Word of God. Invite someone to proclaim the Gospel reading...

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:14-16)

✚ We Share a Meal...

Place the meal that is to be shared on the table, pray, eat and discuss.

Pray together...

Jesus, you believe in our ability to be your light in our world. Be with us as we break bread and word together, that we may be nourished and strengthened to remove the bushel baskets covering our witness of your love and redemption to the world. Bless this food and our time together. Amen.

As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss...

1. Why do "bushel baskets" enter our lives and dim our lights?
2. What actions do you take to prevent the appearance of the bushel basket(s) on your light? What protects your light from the bushel basket covering?
3. How does the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the act of reconciling with others help you to shine your light before others?

✚ We Go Forth...

Conclude by saying...

As we wrap up our time at table together, I invite you to consider one action that you might take to help the light of Christ shine through you. Is there someone you need to reconcile with? Something you need to do to avoid some negative actions? Simply state the action in a word or few words and re-light one of the vigil lights from the Christ candle in the center.

We pray...

Jesus grant us what we need to reflect your light to our world. We know that we will fail again – give us the strength and courage we need to burn off the bushel baskets in our lives. Be with us as we share a sign of your peace with one another, AMEN (Invite those gathered to share a sign of peace as they leave the table.)

